



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/558,755	04/21/2000	Devin F. Hosea	60136.0097USU1	9034
23552 7590 09/30/2009 MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903				
EXAMINER				
BOYCE, ANDRE D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3623				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/30/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/558,755

Applicant(s)

HOSEA ET AL.

Examiner

Andre Boyce

Art Unit

3623

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 64-109 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 64-109 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but before the filing of a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 28, 2009 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-63 have been canceled. Claims 64-109 have been and are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 64-71, 77, 80-87, 93, 95-101 and 107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth et al (USPN 6,285,987) in view of Armbruster et al (USPN 6,243,760), in further view of Bull et al (USPN 6,208,975).

As per claim 64, Roth et al disclose a method of profiling a Web user (via view-opportunity/view-op, see column 2, lines 11-14), comprising: capturing packets associated with Web page requests anonymously (i.e., IP data about a viewer,

column 8, lines 20-28), determining a user ID associated with each IP address of a client requesting a Web page (i.e., IP data about the user is presented to the system at view-op time, column 8, lines 20-28); for each client, storing the URL and the user ID of the client associated with the extracted URL (i.e., IP data about the user is presented to the system at view-op time, column 8, lines 20-28, and viewer history data, including historical data about a unique viewer, column 8, lines 65-67 and database of viewer information 16B, figure 1), and developing a user profile for user IDs, based on the extracted URLs associated with Web pages requested by clients having the user IDs (i.e., updating of viewer history data, column 8, lines 65-67 and column 9, lines 1-4), and cross referencing Web site profiles (i.e., web site demographic data, column 9, lines 13-14) with the extracted URLs associated with Web pages requested by a client having the user ID to generate an updated user profile (i.e., IP data about the user is presented to the system at view-op time, column 8, lines 20-28, and viewer history data, including historical data about a unique viewer, column 8, lines 65-67 and database of viewer information 16B, figure 1)

Roth et al does not explicitly disclose capturing, at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) point of presence (POP), packets associated with Web page requests; extracting, at the ISP POP, an IP address associated with the Web page request and a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the requested Web page; associating each extracted URL with a client making the Web page request, and generating an updated user profile, at the ISP POP. Armbruster et al disclose a cache located at

an ISP's point-of-presence (column 3, lines 34-36), wherein the ISP includes a local caching complex 10, consisting of servers and storage devices for identifying and storing cacheable web pages, filtering software, and web sites (column 3, lines 59-64), including the URLs associated with the cached items (column 4, lines 45-49), and forwarding packets to the ISP local cache (column 5, lines 56-60).

Neither Roth et al nor Armbruster et al disclose generating an updated user profile, based on inferred user demographics of the Web sites requested by the client having the user ID. Bull et al discloses the user's web viewing patterns monitored and matched against software text agents to match a profile (see column 15, lines 14-19), including user demographics.

Roth, Armbruster, and Bull are concerned with effective storage and retrieval of information from the Internet, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include capturing, at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) point of presence (POP), packets associated with Web page requests; extracting, at the ISP POP, an IP address associated with the Web page request and a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the requested Web page; associating each extracted URL with a client making the Web page request, and generating an updated user profile, at the ISP POP, based on inferred user demographics of the Web sites requested by the client having the user ID in Roth et al, as see in Armbruster and Bull, respectively, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would

have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

As per claim 65, Roth et al disclose data selected from demographic data (see column 2, lines 14-19).

As per claim 66, Roth et al disclose said demographic data is selected from the group consisting of user's age, gender, income, and highest attained education level (i.e., age, sex, income, etc., column 9, lines 1-2).

As per claims 67-68, Roth et al disclose psychographic data including data on the user's interests (viewer history data, see column 8, lines 65-67).

As per claim 69, Roth et al disclose providing a database associating each of said plurality of Web sites with demographic characteristics of known persons who have accessed said sites (database 16D, see column 18, lines 51-53).

As per claim 70, neither Roth et al, Armbruster et al, nor Bull et al disclose said database provided by a Web site ratings service. However, Roth et al disclose Web site demographic data collected from commercial sources (see column 18, lines 51-53), therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a database provided by a Web site rating service in Roth et al, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

As per claim 71, Roth et al disclose updating an existing user profile (see column 4, lines 30-31).

As per claim 77, Roth et al disclose delivering selective advertising to said user based on his or her profile (see column 4, lines 58-61).

Claims 80-87 and 93 are rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claims 64-71 and 77, respectively, since they are the computer claims corresponding to the method claims.

Claims 95-101 and 107 are rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claims 64-70 and 77, respectively, since they are the system claims corresponding to the method claims.

5. Claims 72-75, 79, 88-91 and 102-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth et al (USPN 6,285,987) in view of Armbruster et al (USPN 6,243,760), in further view of Bull et al (USPN 6,208,975), in further view of Sheena et al (USPN 6,049,777).

As per claims 72 and 75, neither Roth et al, Armbruster et al, nor Bull et al disclose combining the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user to the existing user profile using an averaging algorithm and the average rating is determined using a clustering algorithm. Sheena et al disclose using an averaging algorithm to calculate a similarity factor between a pair of users (see column 8, lines 47-49), based on their ratings of a product. Sheena et al also disclose clustering algorithms (see column 22, lines 33-36) used to calculate the mean of the rating given to each

item a user has rated. Sheena et al also disclose the method working equally as well for items having many features of interest (see column 19, lines 9-13), such as web site and user profiles. Further, both Roth et al and Sheena et al are concerned with user profiles, and product recommendation, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include using an averaging algorithm to combine the profiles of the web site and user and determining the average rating using a clustering algorithm in Roth et al, as seen in Sheena et al, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

As per claims 73 and 74, neither Roth et al, Armbruster et al, nor Bull et al disclose user profile includes data on a plurality of demographic categories, each associated with a rating, and the method further comprises filling in a value for the rating for any demographic category having a low confidence measure and using an average rating of persons having similar profiles to that of said user for a category having a low confidence measure. Sheena et al disclose using an averaging algorithm to calculate a similarity factor between a pair of users (see column 8, lines 47-49), based on their ratings of a product. Further, Sheena et al disclose items with low confidence factors (see column 10, line 10), and correlation between neighboring users (see column 10, lines 20-23). Both Roth et al and Sheena et al are concerned with user profiles, and product recommendation, therefore it would

have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include filling in a value for the rating for any demographic category having a low confidence measure and using an average rating of persons having similar profiles to that of said user for a category having a low confidence measure, in Roth et al, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

As per claim 79, neither Roth et al, Armbruster et al, nor Bull et al disclose generating, for a user associated a user ID, a user profile having a rating for categories of Web sites of interest to the user and a confidence measure representing an estimate of accuracy of a category's rating. Sheena et al disclose using an averaging algorithm to calculate a similarity factor between a pair of users (see column 8, lines 47-49), based on their ratings of a product. Further, Sheena et al disclose items with low confidence factors (see column 10, line 10), and correlation between neighboring users (see column 10, lines 20-23). Both Roth et al and Sheena et al are concerned with user profiles, and product recommendation, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include generating, for a user associated a user ID, a user profile having a rating for categories of Web sites of interest to the user and a confidence measure representing an estimate of accuracy of a category's rating, in Roth et al, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and

in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Claims 88-91 are rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claims 72-75, respectively, since they are the computer claims corresponding to the method claims.

Claims 102-105 are rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claims 72-75, respectively, since they are the system claims corresponding to the method claims.

6. Claims 76, 92 and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth et al (USPN 6,285,987) in view of Armbruster et al (USPN 6,243,760), in further view of Bull et al (USPN 6,208,975), in further view of Eldering (USPN 6,298,348).

As per claim 76, neither Roth et al, Armbruster et al, nor Bull et al explicitly disclose erasing records of which Web sites said user has visited after developing the user's profile to protect user privacy. Eldering discloses maintaining consumer privacy via private data networks (see column 4, lines 62-65). Both Roth and Eldering are concerned with consumer demographic information collection, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include maintaining consumer privacy in Roth et al, as seen in Eldering, via deletion of records, since the claimed invention is merely a

combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Claim 92 is rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claim 76, since it is the computer claim corresponding to the method claim.

Claim 106 is rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claim 76, since it is the system claim corresponding to the method claim.

7. Claims 78, 94 and 108 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth et al (USPN 6,285,987) in view of Armbruster et al (USPN 6,243,760), in further view of Bull et al (USPN 6,208,975), in further view of Park et al (USPN 6,295,061).

As per claim 78, neither Roth et al, Armbruster et al, nor Bull et al disclose transmitting pop-up and banner advertisements to a display of a computer operated by the user. Park et al disclose banner advertisement (see column 1, lines 30-33), and pop-up advertisement over the internet (see column 2, lines 1-2). Both Roth et al and Park et al are concerned with effective advertising via the internet, therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include pop-up and banner advertisement in Roth et al, since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did

separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Claim 94 is rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claim 78, since it is the computer claim corresponding to the method claim.

Claim 108 is rejected based upon the same rationale as the rejection of claim 78, since it is the system claim corresponding to the method claim.

Response to Arguments

8. In the Remarks, Applicant argues the cited references fail to disclose the limitations of new independent claim 64. The Examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that Roth et al in view of Armbruster et al, in further view of Bull et al indeed disclose the limitations, as discussed in the above rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre Boyce whose telephone number is (571)272-6726. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Beth Boswell can be reached on (571) 272-6737. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andre Boyce/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623
September 25, 2009